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*Police in Chile have arrested two women, aged 72 and 80, after finding a stash of cocaine and cash in their house. As Gideon Long reports from the capital Santiago, it's thought that the women have been operating a drug-trafficking ring in the area for years:*

Police **raided** the house during the night and found two kilos of cocaine and around 65,000 dollars in cash. They arrested 80-year-old Maria Valdebenito and 72-year-old Giselle Gilbert and **charged them with** drug **trafficking** offences.

Mrs Valdebenito is **bedridden**. Prosecutors say she received the drugs from **her contacts** and passed them to her younger and **more agile accomplice** to sell. The house **that the women used as their base** is just a few metres from Chile's biggest police academy.

Prosecutors say the women should be **taken into preventative custody** while their case is considered. But, because of their **frail** state of health, they might be placed under house arrest instead.

Gideon Long, BBC News, Santiago

## Vocabulary and definitions

<b>raided</b>	suddenly entered and searched
<b>charged them with</b>	accused them of
<b>trafficking</b>	here, illegal transportation and trade (often used with words like 'drugs' or 'weapons')
<b>bedridden</b>	unable to get out of bed because of poor health and/or physical weakness
<b>her contacts</b>	here, people she knows and has dealings with
<b>more agile</b>	more active, able to move more quickly and easily
<b>accomplice</b>	somebody who helps somebody else to do something illegal or morally wrong
<b>that the women used as their base</b>	here, where the women conducted their illegal business
<b>taken into preventative custody</b>	placed and kept under arrest in a special secure place (e.g. prison) so they can no longer commit crimes
<b>frail</b>	weak, fragile

**More on this story:** <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/8075634.stm>

**Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:**

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/language/wordsinthenews/2009/06/090601\\_witn\\_druggie\\_grannies.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/language/wordsinthenews/2009/06/090601_witn_druggie_grannies.shtml)